



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COMMISSIONERS APPOINT POUGET AS DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today announced the appointment of Denise Pouget as director of the Division of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS), effective July 22, 2013.

Ms. Pouget takes over the helm of the division after the retirement of Thomas Owens as of June 1, 2013, after serving in the position since February 1, 2010. Her salary will be \$150,000.

The director position also holds the rank of chief and guides all facets of fire and rescue services within Frederick County. This position performs administrative and supervisory work in the management of rescue and fire suppression activities, fire protection, injury prevention, pre-hospital emergency medical services, protection from hazardous materials emergencies and disaster services. DFRS incorporates career personnel and volunteers. Supervision is given to career bureau chiefs, support staff and volunteer corporation chiefs. Supervision is received from the county manager.

Board President Blaine Young commented, “The Board of County Commissioners is very excited about the appointment of Denise Pouget as the director of Fire & Rescue Services and our first chief. She brings outstanding qualifications to the job, including the temperament, knowledge and leadership that will be needed to continue to move our outstanding system forward. We are pleased to welcome such a devoted and hard working firefighter to serve the citizens of Frederick County.”

In response to the appointment, Ms. Pouget replied, “I am very excited to be named the new director and am confident that we will move the Division of Fire and Rescue Services forward together to be one of the best combination organizations in the country. We will achieve that goal with integrity and the respect of all individuals, as well as input from all stakeholders.”

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Commissioners Appoint Pouget as Director of Division of Fire and Rescue Services -- Page Two

Ms. Pouget has served as the assistant fire chief for the Alexandria Fire Department, Alexandria, Va., since 2008, supervising 50 employees and serving the City of Alexandria with 140,000 residents. The department has 292 employees with a budget of \$40 million, nine operating fire stations, a professional development center, maintenance shop and headquarters facility.

In this capacity, Ms. Pouget directs fiscal matters, human resources, health and safety, information technology, professional development and technical training, public information and logistics. She maintains relationships with local elected officials, the volunteer fire department, community leaders and the citizens.

Ms. Pouget's responsibilities include the recruitment, selection and training for five recruit schools of nearly 100 new firefighters. She routinely assumes command of large scale incidents to include any second alarm fires or greater within the city of Alexandria.

Ms. Pouget oversaw major purchases that included contract oversight of over \$7 million in new firefighting apparatus and equipment, a new \$2 million fire boat and a 20-year, \$38 million program to construct a new fire station and to replace four outmoded fire stations.

From 2011 to present, she has been assistant chief for administration and logistics at the Alexandria Fire Department, coordinating planning and direction of all administrative operations. From 2008 – 2011, Ms. Pouget served as assistant chief of Fire Emergency Services, responsible for the personnel management and direction of uniformed AFD firefighters and medics at the nine city fire stations.

From 2005 – 2008, Ms. Pouget served as assistant fire chief of health and safety at the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Darnestown, Md. Among many accomplishments, she established a 10-step safety plan that saved the county over one million dollars within the first year. She won the International Association of Fire Chief's "Safety Officer of the Year" award for these efforts.

During Ms. Pouget's 27-year tenure with the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, she was progressively promoted within the department, having been hired in September 1981. Her rise in the organization included the following positions: firefighter paramedic, paramedic officer and suppression unit officer, emergency medical quality assurance officer, emergency medical paramedic supervisor/public information officer, operational supervisor for emergency communications, operational fire captain, battalion chief and shift chief in charge of operations.

Ms. Pouget also served from 1985-2007 as the emergency medical technician instructor, teaching the Emergency Medical Technician basic curriculum throughout Maryland.

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Commissioners Appoint Pouget as Director of Division of Fire and Rescue Services -- Page Three

Ms. Pouget is a graduate of American Public University in Charlestown, WV, with a major in fire science and minor in emergency management, as well as a master's degree in emergency disaster management.

She holds many licenses and certifications and is an American Safety and Health Institute instructor and training center coordinator.

A total of 52 applications were received for the position of DFRS director. In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, the evaluation committee included County Manager Lori Depies, Human Resources Division Director Mitch Hose, volunteer firefighter Frank Davis and career firefighter Chris Mutchler.

For further information, contact [Ms. Depies](#) at 301-600-3190.

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